

Sab. even. Jan. 1859.

Read yours my dear Stephen, on the 7th and tho'
the lines were few & far between yet they con-
tained high interest. Perhaps each impressed with his
own imperfections & meanness of his own worthiness & so?
The former I know best not less certain of final success.
Y^e it is a fact as demonstrable as existence that the out-
law^{er} of God the certain of failing every day in perpe-
tuation is certain that God cannot desert him - he is
certain that no flower springs in his youth - and that
age is cold & desolate - yet he glories in his very sor-
rows - he can challenge that infinite & perfect Being
in humble confidence to deprive him of life while
his Providence orders his trials - Nay more were
things of ill & good to be left to the cold & stern
laws of generalities - were God what the revelation
& ministry of his divine Son teaches - the heart that
is devoted to him would cheerfully wait till he were
ready to remove the veil which parents or only hide
his immediate government. None where the virtue of
patience & courage could we see the divine hand
which allows so many trials? If I might go farther &
explain my idea of this devotion which has haunted
me so many heroes & martyrs it would be so severe
as to admit of doing anything about which there is
a "scruple" - any profession in which there are known
"temptations". One chance to a million of such a here-
after as you & I expect and who shd^t hazard those
virtues essential to the spirit of that future? And
now I will express a favorite wish - that you might
preach the plain plain plain law of the gospel.

I never said it - you were so absorbed in the study of
the old world - I don't presume to advise - if you
needed it - others more able - I only say that your
impassioned eloquence - your sympathy were what
should be laid on the altar of him who comes
to seek a soother. Your health is, perhaps un-
equal to the task of continuing in those labours
which you have entered. If it does - if you add to
the noise of the Box heretic - better than to be a
modern unitarian. All that is sublime, earnest, impulsive
seems to have no place in their faith. They talk
of the muddles in nature & Providence & neutrality.
When the last confesses them - amounts for them to
all the purposes of the most undaunted faith - so that
the believer can be puffed with a divine ambition
and make mouths at the invisible world.

I am the more afraid of it since hearing of Han-
nings P. sermon. What has he done? And one the
sermons I entreat. Should he fall - it will be because
he has departed from old fashioned unitarianism, such
as Paul preached. Who is yet an enigma. My
Brother & Sister's opinion I do not know - to speak
freely. But why do I prove? God himself will.
Direct you and bless you pray & you off P. Aunt.

Give my love to Father & Sister I am in haste
as I must give ~~the~~ ^{the} letter to the steamer to
monrow morning - and I can't pay for it. I beg you
never to pay. By and by the monrow it is pos-
sible I can have Dr H's opinion in a week. I
am glad you approve of E. Louisa. I often cheer my wife
with her lively image. And wish you had
a like engagement. The sermon & whatever else you

you procure place to ask Father to dismount for
me. He owned me 4th the 14th last month. Mr. Cham-
berlain expects to be at Concord in a fortnight - if
not the person may come by mail. By trans-
mitting Dr. H.'s opinion which hardly comes worth
while, to ask - but I am writing to you if you
will oblige if it does not benefit. I was wondering
for health & boarded with a young Doctor the
few